

## MARXIST-LENINIST EDUCATION PROJECT

### Study Group Reading List January, 1978

Our study of basic Marxist-Leninist theory breaks down into four major areas:

- A. Introduction which deals with how to study Marxist theory, relation of practice to study and theory, dogmatic, pragmatic, subjectivist errors in study and their ramifications, etc.
- B. Overview of Basic Marxist Analysis which deals with basic principles of Marxist science and philosophy and the basic categories of historical materialism on the economic, political, and ideological levels.
- C. Basic Analyses of the Main Contradictions in Contemporary Capitalism which deals with the contradictions between imperialism and dependent societies, between classes in advanced social formations, the oppression of national minorities in the U.S. and the oppression of women.
- D. Socialism and Communism deals with socialism as a period of transition to communism, as a period of advancing proletarian class struggle under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Reading assignments average about 60 pages a week, though they occasionally go over 70 pages (those readings that are assigned on the basis of Chinese editions are very small pages). As proposed, the study lasts 13 weeks.

#### A. Introduction

##### 1. On studying and practicing Marxism (1 week)

- Mao Tse-tung, "Reform Our Study", Selected Works, V. III, pp. 17-25
  - " " " "Rectify the Party's Style of Work", V. III, pp. 35-51
  - " " " "Oppose Stereotyped Party Writing", V. III, pp. 53-68
- (These are also available in individual pamphlet form)

#### B. Overview of Basic Marxist Analysis

##### 2. Basic principles of Marxist philosophy (dialectical materialism) and science (historical materialism) (2 weeks)

- a. Mao Tse-tung, "On Contradiction" (week 1)
- b. Engels, Socialism: Utopian and Scientific (week 2)  
Engels, "Letter to Bloch", (handout)

##### 3. Basic analysis of economics (1 week)

Paul Sweezy, Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 23-95

##### 4. Basic analysis of politics and ideology (3 weeks)

- a. The state: political and ideological power (week 1)  
Lenin, The State and Revolution, Chapters I-IV.  
Antonio Gramsci, excerpts on ideology, intellectuals, hegemony and the state from "The Intellectuals" (handout)
- b. The party: proletarian political and ideological struggle (week 2)  
Lenin, What Is to Be Done?, Chapters I, D; II; III, A, C, D, E.  
Lenin, "The Reorganization of the Party" (1905)
- c. The party (continued) (week 3)  
Charles Bettelheim, Class Struggles in the USSR, pp. 410-15 (handout)  
Mao Tse-tung, "Combat Liberalism"  
Lenin, Left-Wing Communism, Chapters I-II, VI, VIII  
Mao, "Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership"

C. Basic Analyses of the Main Contradictions in Contemporary Capitalism

5. The stage of imperialism, dependent societies and national liberation (2 weeks)
  - a. Harry Magdoff, "Imperialism, A Historical Survey", Monthly Review, May, '72  
Lenin, Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, I-III
  - b. Lenin, Imperialism. . ., IV-VII (week 2)  
Amilcar Cabral, "The Role of Culture in the Liberation Struggle" (handout)  
Mao, "Analysis of Classes in China"
6. Popular Classes in Advanced Capitalism (1 week)

Marx, "The Factory", Capital, V. I, pp. 418-427  
Harry Braverman, Labor and Monopoly Capitalism, pp. 348-56 (clerical);  
pp. 359-73 (service); 377-409 (structure of working class, reserve  
army, bureaucratic petty bourgeoisie)  
Lenin, definition of class from the Great Beginning from "Letter to the  
Northern League" (1 paragraph handout)
7. National minorities and racism (1 week)

Philadelphia Workers Organizing Committee, Black Liberation Today  
American Workers Party, "Response to PWOC. . ."
8. The oppression of women and sexism (1 week)

Baxandall, Ewen, Gordon, "The Working Class Has Two Sexes", Monthly Review,  
July-August, 1976  
Sheila Rowbotham, Woman's Consciousness, Man's World, Chapters 4-6.  
Norma Chinchilla, "Mobilizing Women, Revolution in the Revolution", Latin  
American Perspectives, Fall, 1977

D. SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM

9. Class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat (1 week)

Lenin, The State and Revolution, V  
Bettelheim, "Dictatorship of the Proletariat, Social Classes, and Proletarian  
Ideology", in On the Transition to Socialism, pp. 55-76.  
Liang Hsiao, "The Proletariat Must Exercise Dictatorship Over the Bourgeoisie",  
Peking Review (handout)

M.L.E.P.

